



**Percy Baxter**

*Middle School*

101 MINK CREEK RD.  
WHITECOURT, AB  
T7S 1S2  
780-778-3898  
WWW.PERCYBAXTER.CA



## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE— Mr. Turcotte, Principal

It is hard to believe we have already completed the first month of the school year and that the leaves are already changing color with the arrival of the beautiful fall season. The start of the school year, unlike any we have experienced before, has gone incredibly well, with students adjusting to the many COVID-19 parameters that have been put in place. We are extremely proud of the students in our school, who have demonstrated nothing but the best of themselves as we strive to get things back to as near normal as possible. A reminder to all students of the importance of ensuring you arrive to school with your reusable masks provided at the beginning of the school year, as disposable masks are in shortage in the school. Staff have risen above and beyond, working to deliver curriculum in meaningful and engaging ways, while at the same time getting to know students and supporting them as they adjust to the new normal and safety parameters which have been put in place.

A special thank you goes out to our parents and guardians who have been working proactively with the school when dealing with student sickness and the expectations laid out by the Chief Medical Officer. We recognize illness protocols are not easy for our PBS families, however we do appreciate your cooperation and support as we work to keep everyone in our school community safe and healthy. A reminder that when a student is home from school for an extended number of days, the majority of subject assignments and resources are available in Google Classroom. Students are strongly encouraged to access Google Classroom to ensure the completion of assignments.

A number of exciting events will be taking place during the month of October, including the Terry Fox Run and our 2nd annual Turkey Trot. While these events have had to be modified to meet the expectations regarding gatherings and cohorting, the meaning behind them continues to be the importance of community spirit and support. A reminder to all PBS families that Friday, October 9 is a scheduled Professional Development Day, and that students will have a four day long weekend. Wishing all of our PBS school community and wonderful weekend of giving thanks!



**Northern Gateway**  
Public Schools



Wanting to stay connected to Percy Baxter School? Look for updates and school news via the PBS Facebook page!



Our Twitter feed can be found on our webpage or @ngpspbs

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT.....

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

GRADE 6  
RYLEIGH DARVILLE



GRADE 7  
JORDAN LOUIE



GRADE 8  
MACKENZIE BOON



## COVID-19 Information—Student illness

### STAY AT HOME GUIDE

This summary, based on the September 2020 Government of Alberta update, [COVID-19 Symptom-Student illness](#), provides further clarity to parents about the 'isolation' period or 'stay home and minimize contact with others' period if a child has presenting symptoms.

It is still expected that parents complete [Alberta Health's Daily Checklist](#), each day, before sending your child to school.

### My child has COVID-19 symptoms. How long must my child stay home?

<p><b>If my child has any of these core COVID-19 symptoms:</b></p>	<p><b>If my child has any of these (secondary) symptoms:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever</li> <li>• Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)</li> <li>• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)</li> <li>• Runny nose</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Painful swallowing</li> <li>• Stuffy nose</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Muscle or joint aches</li> <li>• Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)</li> <li>• Loss of sense of smell or taste</li> <li>• Conjunctivitis (pink eye)</li> </ul>
<p><b>What should I do next?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete AHS' <a href="#">Online Self-Assessment Tool</a> and call 811.</li> <li>2. You are legally required to have your child isolate for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.</li> <li>3. It is strongly recommended that your child be tested for COVID-19.</li> </ol>	<p><b>What should I do next?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete AHS' <a href="#">Online Self-Assessment Tool</a> and call 811.</li> <li>2. Keep your child home from school and minimize your child's contact with others until symptoms resolve.</li> <li>3. It is recommended that your child be tested for COVID-19.</li> </ol>
<p><b>When can my child return to school?</b></p>	<p><b>When can my child return to school?</b></p>
<p>Your child may return to school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once the 10-day isolation is complete and symptoms have resolved,</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• When your child has received a negative COVID-19 test result, has no known exposure to the virus, and symptoms have resolved.</li> </ul>	<p>Your child may return to school once symptoms have resolved and your child is feeling better.</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Please see Alberta's <a href="#">COVID-19 Symptom-Student illness</a> document for information regarding pre-existing conditions.</p> </div>



# Turkey Trot



October 8, 2020

## Local Sponsor Thank you's!



Mr. Chris Herbert

**RD Contracting**  
*The Dickson Family*



Mr. Matt Moffat &  
Mr. Pat Shrode



Ms. Kait Moffat & Mr. Jordan Stead



w/  
*Mrs. Armstrong & Family*



Ms. Jennifer LeFrance



Mr. Ryan Armstrong  
& Team





PSNT

 PowerSchool

## PowerSchool Mobile

PowerSchool Parents and Students have access to real-time student information via the free PowerSchool Mobile app, creating better communication, collaboration, and success within a child's learning experience.

Parent involvement is crucial to student academic success. The Parent Portal is a tool for you to stay informed and engaged in your child's education. The Parent Portal gives parents and guardians access to:

- View your child's assignments and grades,
- See your child's schedule
- Monitor your child's attendance
- Communicate with your child's teachers
- Stay current on homework, projects and deadlines



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

*every student, every day*

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

If you know your child is going to be late or absent from school on a given day, please call the office directly at 780-778-3898 after 8:15AM.

You can leave a message between 4:15pm-8:15am.

Unless it is an emergency, we will not interrupt classes to deliver messages to students. Please have afterschool plans finalized before school.

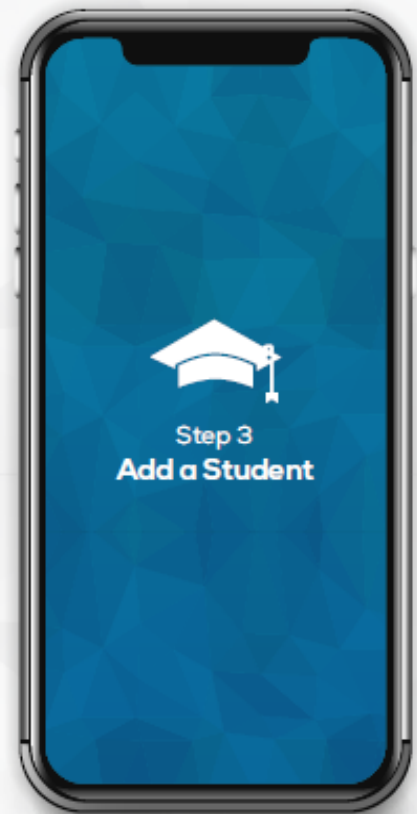
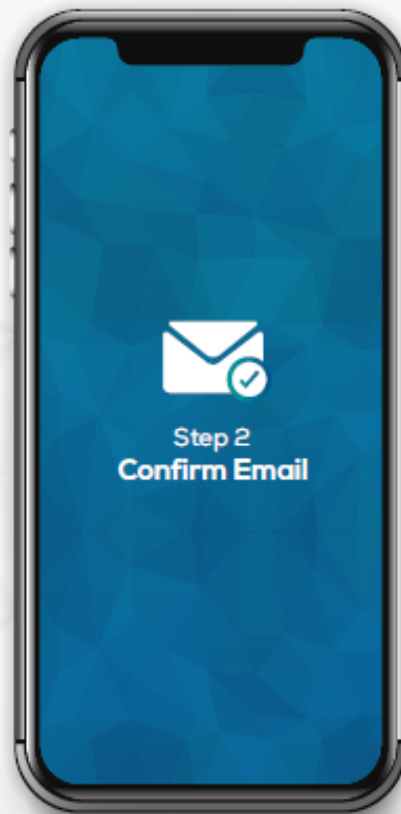
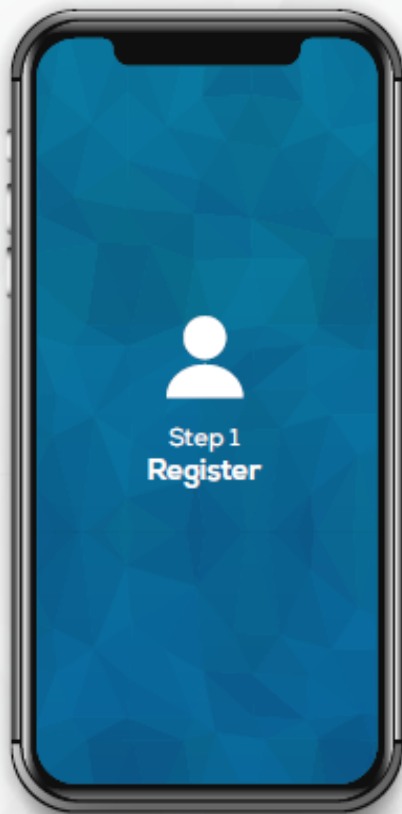
Students are only able to ride their assigned bus and get off at their stop. The office cannot issue notes to have a friend ride the bus or change you bus route.

# Welcome to SchoolCashOnline

Fast. Safe. Convenient.

For safety and efficiency reasons, Northern Gateway Schools would like to reduce the amount of cash & checks coming into our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE!

It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child.



Go to  
<https://ngps.schoolcashonline.com/>

and click on **Register**.

- ✓ Enter in your first name, last name, email and create a password.
- ✓ Select a security question.
- ✓ Check YES to receive email notifications

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account (check spam).

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site, prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password to log in.

This step will connect your child to your account.

- a) Enter the School Board Name.
- b) Enter the School Name.
- c) Enter Your Child's Student Number, Last Name and Birth Date.
- d) Select Continue.
- e) On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select Continue.
- f) Your child has been added to your account.

## SCHOOL FEES NOW PAST DUE

EVERGREEN TECHNOLOGY — \$31.50  
FOR ALL IN-SCHOOL AND ONLINE  
STUDENTS USING SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

Please submit your payment through school cash or at the school office and a receipt will be issued. If you are not using school technology please contact the school office. If you are experiencing financial difficulties at this time, we ask that you contact the school office 780-778-3898 and we will assist you with setting up payment arrangements.

## PARENTS STAY CONNECTED



Access student schedules, attendance and grades online at any time with PowerSchool. *\*Also available as an app for smart phones.*  
To create an account, please contact us to receive your individual username and password.



Like our Facebook—Percy Baxter School



Pay school fees, sport activities and more at  
<https://ngps.schoolcashionline.com/>



Contact us directly at 780-778-3898 or email  
[david.turcotte@ngps.ca](mailto:david.turcotte@ngps.ca)



## KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

I have shared information about keeping children and youth safe online previously. However, with the increased reliance on technology during COVID-19, we could use an updated reminder of basic safety and appropriate digital citizenship.

### WHAT IS DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP?

The online dictionary definition of DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP is "the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the internet and digital devices to engage with society on any level".

When it comes to safe use of technology, Northern Gateway Public Schools Administrative Procedure 140 1.3 states

*Accessing, uploading, downloading, transmitting, displaying or distributing obscene, violent, illegal or sexually explicit language is unacceptable. All users are responsible for their appropriate use of resources in all areas of the school program.*

### DANGERS

With just a click, we can have access to any terrifying, vile, twisted and horrific image. It is not a matter of IF our children will witness extreme violence, perversion and brutality, it is a matter of WHEN. I do not say this to cause fear. Rather, we as parents and/or grandparents, must protect our children. If not us, then whom? We need to arm ourselves with the knowledge and skills to teach our children how to report obscene sites, reject requests from strangers, block inappropriate followers, and talk to you when they see something upsetting.

### HELPFUL SAFETY HINTS

**Keep devices and computers in high-traffic areas of your home.** The Canadian Pediatric Society tells us that solitary use increases the risks for exposure to negative or harmful content.

**Talk, talk and talk some more with your children.** It is never too early or late to start conversations staying safe online. See "Discussion Starters" below.

**Set limits and boundaries.** Just like giving bedtimes and curfews, children need to know what you expect online, time limits, sites to go on, etc. According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, for children under 5 years of age, screen time should be less than 1 hour per day. Screens should be avoided at least 1 hour before bedtime, and "screen-free" times must be incorporated daily, for activities such as exercise, sports, board games or family meal time.

**Surf the internet together.** Let your children show you what they like to do online.

**Be a good digital citizen.** Start talking with your kids early about being respectful and responsible online. Discuss your family values in relation to the acceptable uses of technology. Use your own online behavior as a **role model**.

Limit the amount of personal information you share and keep a healthy balance between time spent on screens and face to face relationships.

**Set strong passwords for all devices.** It's important to NOT use the same passwords for critical accounts, and to change passwords regularly. Reinforce with your children that they should NEVER share their passwords with anyone other than you, not even their best friend. **Know your child's passwords.**

**Set privacy settings.** They should be at the highest possible setting for each site and each app your child is accessing.

**Share with care.** Younger children should not post personal information — including their name, phone number, email address, postal address, school, or photos without consulting with you.

**Talk with older children about the information they are posting.** Putting personal information online leaves them open to cyberbullying or to people who want to take advantage of them. Social networks (Tik Tok, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.) are a great way to connect with other people, but children need to consider carefully what they post on these sites. Reinforce the message that the internet is *FOREVER* and that information they post can be shared with *ANYONE*. In addition, be knowledgeable on the age requirements of apps, games, movies and television shows. Most social media apps are a minimum of 13 years old. Many apps, games and Netflix shows are Mature due to violence, sex and profanity.

**Don't respond to a bully or try to retaliate.** *STOP, BLOCK, TELL* is a good rule. Teach your children to stop communicating with someone who is sending insulting, hurtful or disturbing messages online. If the messages continue, ask your child to save them and then block that person. Then they need to tell a parent or trusted adult. Cyberbullying can have tragic outcomes for the **bullied** and serious legal consequences for the **bully**.

**Think before you click.** Children should never click links in messages from people they don't know or in messages that look suspicious. They should not download files to their phones or computers unless they are absolutely sure they're safe.

**Be wary.** Children should not get together with anyone they "meet" online. The person they think they're talking to online may not always be who they say they are. If a person asks for personal information or makes them uncomfortable, they need to come to you or another trusted adult.

**Inform yourself.** It can be difficult to keep up with technology, but just as you need to know where your children are in their offline lives, it is just as important to know where they go when they're online. Talk to other parents, learn from one another. As noted earlier, open communication with your children is your best route staying informed.

**Randomly Check Your Child's Browser and Chat Histories.** Don't be afraid to take a close look at what your children are looking at and who they're chatting with online. *Forewarned is forearmed.* [Protectkids.com](https://www.protectkids.com) and [Internet Safety 101](#) are excellent sources of information about sexual predators and advice to help avoid the dangers associated with online predators.

**Check With Your ISP for Parental Control Software.** Most Internet Service Providers offer free parental control software that can help parents keep their kids safe online. Some providers have it built into the modem/router used to access the service.

**Set Parental Controls on the Connected Devices Your Kids Use.** Windows and Mac computers, iOS and Android phones and tablets, and gaming consoles all offer parental controls. Familiarize yourself with these controls and adjust them as needed.

Check out these sites for the best apps to keep your entire family safe and responsible online.

<https://www.safewise.com/resources/parental-control-filters-buyers-guide/> and

<https://pixelprivacy.com/resources/keep-children-safe-online/> and

<https://www.pcmag.com/picks/the-best-parental-control-software>

### WARNING SIGNS

Kids who are being cyber-bullied, have been contacted by an online predator or viewing inappropriate material often exhibit changed behavior. They may act secretively, react unusually, close browser windows when you enter the room, take a device into the bathroom or other locked doors, spend excessive time online, especially at night, moodier than usual, and have mature knowledge about adult situations. Do not get angry at your child but talk to them in a non-judgmental manner.

### DISCUSSION STARTERS

- What are your favorite things to do online?
- What is personal information? Why should you keep it private?
- Tell me about a time that you were scared or worried about something you saw online.
- What could you do to be safer online?
- What would you do if anyone online asked to meet you face-to-face? Besides me, who do you feel that you can talk to if you are in a scary or uncomfortable situation?

(*"National Center for Missing and Exploited Children" website [www.netismartz.org/internetsafety]*)

Parenting is hard! It takes a lot of time and energy to stay informed on keeping children safe online and in real time. Do not lose hope! With positive relationships, open communication and a healthy connection with your child, you will all survive and be stronger because of it!

### More resources for parents:

[Government of Canada: Get Cyber Safe](#), [Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Need Help Now](#),

[www.kidshelpline.com](http://www.kidshelpline.com), report concerns to <https://www.cybertip.ca/app/en/report> and/or the RCMP

**Sources:** [CBC News](#), [Scholastic](#), [Privacy Canada](#), [Pixel Privacy](#), [Protect Young Minds](#), [Canadian Pediatric Society](#)

*This article was submitted by Tammy Charko BA, BSW, RSW. Tammy is Northern Gateway Public School's Student Support Facilitator. She advocates for students and parents, providing a link to other supports within the community. Tammy has been a social worker for over 20 years and is a mother to 4 teenagers.*



**2020/2021  
Percy Baxter School  
Bell Schedule**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>
8:55	Warning Bell
8:55-9:05	TAGS
9:05-9:52	BLOCK 1
9:55-10:42	BLOCK 2
10:45-11:32	BLOCK 3
11:35-12:05	BLOCK 4
12:05-12:25	LUNCH BREAK A
12:26-12:46	LUNCH BREAK B
12:47-1:34	BLOCK 5
1:37-2:24	BLOCK 6
2:27-3:14	BLOCK 7
3:15	Dismissal



# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 WORLD TEACHERS DAY	6	7	8 TURKEY TROT	9 NO SCHOOL PD DAY	10
TERRY FOX ACTIVITIES						
11	12 NO SCHOOL  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 

## 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
30	31												
OCTOBER							NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
DECEMBER							JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28							28	29	30	31			
APRIL							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					
JUNE							JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Aug 27 - Sep 1	Staff Planning & Development Days
September 2	First Day for Students
September 7	Labour Day
October 9	Staff Planning & Development Day
October 12	Thanksgiving Day
November 6	Staff Planning & Development Day
November 9	Board Approved Non-Instructional Day
November 10	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
November 11	Remembrance Day
Dec 21 - Jan 1	Christmas Vacation
January 4	First Day Back for Students
January 29	Staff Planning & Development Day
February 4 & 5	Teachers' Convention (Onway to Fox Creek only)
February 15	Family Day
March 4 & 5	Teachers' Convention (Valleyview only)
Mar 29 - Apr 5	Spring Break
April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 6	Board Approved Non-Instructional Day
April 7	First Day Back for Students
May 24	Victoria Day
May 25	Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
May 26	Board Approved Non-Instructional Day
June 28	Last Day for Students
July 1	Canada Day

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE	AREA	PHONE
Linda Wigton - Chair	Whitecourt	780.706.4345
Sherry Jeffreys - Vice-Chair	Sangudo	780.898.0404
Diane Hagman	Mayerthorpe	780.396.9694
Jim Hailes	Fox Creek	780.622.3385
Barb Maddigan	Whitecourt	780.262.1013
Judy Muir	Alberta Beach	780.991.7413
Christine Peck	Onway	780.691.0772
Anita Portsmouth	Valleyview Rural	780.552.4150
Gerry Steinke	Valleyview	780.524.9889

Regular School Board meetings are held at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please visit our website at [ngps.ca](http://ngps.ca) or contact the Division Office for a complete board schedule.